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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0763
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEAHND/CDR JTF-BRAVO IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000979

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/24/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFH01: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #64 09/25/2009 AS OF
16:00 LOCAL (18:00 EDT)

REF: A. TEGUCIGALPA 967 AND OTHERS

[1](#)B. SAN SALVADOR 905

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

Domestic Political Situation

[1](#)1. (C) Post is thoroughly investigating claims of a gas attack against the Brazilian Embassy.

[1](#)2. (SBU) A Zelaya supporter reported that the de facto government was not allowing presidential candidates Cesar Ham(UD) and Carlos H. Reyes (independent, pro-Zelaya) into the Brazilian embassy to see President Zelaya. The source also reported that a group of Zelaya supporters were also being denied access by the de facto government to the Brazilian embassy.

Civil Unrest and Security Environment

[1](#)3. (U) Reports of the gas attack and a false rumor that shots were being fired at the Brazilian Embassy riled up Zelaya supporters who were marching towards the Brazilian embassy.

[1](#)4. (U)At 1215 local(1415 EST), pro-Zelaya demonstrators were outside the U.S. Embassy. By 1310 local (1510 EST), the protest had passed peacefully and Post resumed normal operations.

[1](#)5. (SBU) Andres Pavon of the Human Rights Committee of Honduras (CODEH) reported from the front of the Brazilian Embassy on Radio Globo the following numbers since Zelaya,s return: two dead, eighteen wounded by firearms, thirty-two with serious injuries and sixty-four injured, but Pavon did not specify the number of injuries caused by police, other protesters or civilians. One HNP source denied the numbers Pavon presented as including all types of crime and being politically motivated. Post is working to verify Pavon,s figures.

[1](#)6. (SBU) The Special Prosecutor for Human Rights Sandra Ponce, who is currently in the United States for a work-related trip, sent Poloff an internal preliminary Public

Ministry(MP) report on September 25 detailing confirmed detainments, injuries and deaths after the break up of the crowd in front of the Brazilian embassy on September 22. Ponce also sent the MP report to various human rights NGOs in Honduras. The report presents itself as an official evaluation of the events of September 22 at the Brazilian Embassy and contradicts many other official estimates on detained, deaths, and injuries. On September 25, Emboff spoke to Public Ministry Coordinator of Prosecutors Danelia Ferrera who stated that the report was mistakenly titled "confirmed cases," and should have read "complaints received." The information contained in the report has not been yet verified or confirmed by the Public Ministry.

¶7. (C) Further to claims by a leading Honduran politician that leftist protesters were blocking Honduran borders from neighboring countries (Ref A), Embassy San Salvador reports that protesters from both sides of the Honduras-El Salvador border blocked traffic for a few hours each midday from September 20-23 in demonstrations coordinated with the local authorities (Ref B).

Consular/ACS

¶8. (U) The Consular Section issued an updated warden message the afternoon of September 25, notifying American citizens of the latest curfew and the renewal of international passenger flights on September 25. Calls to American wardens throughout the country indicated that the situation outside of Tegucigalpa was calm, with no reports of protests or

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roadblocks.

Infrastructure and Communications

¶9. (U) Airports are open for international travel today, September 25. Borders are open today, September 25.

Embassy Operations

¶10. (U) The Embassy is open today, September 25. As of approximately 1700 local (1900 EDT) a curfew was announced from 2000 September 25 to 0500 September 26. (Note: official announcements have been made minutes before imposing or lifting curfews since September 21. End note)

¶11. (SBU) All Mission employees and dependents have been instructed to remain within Tegucigalpa through the weekend of September 26-27. No non-essential travel, either personal or official is authorized until further notice. All TDY travel into Honduras has been suspended for the remainder of the week.

LLORENS